

Déjà vu
Mark 8:1-10

Introduction: Why repeat this type of miracle?

Mark is not recalling his observations as a sort of “Jesus’ greatest hits.” He’s telling a story. He’s writing in such a way so as to reawaken memories of a time long before Jesus. In these miracles, memories are awoken, the present miracle is amplified, and the future is foretold.

I. Memory Awakened

A. Recent Past: Feeding of 5,000 (Mark 6:30-44)

i. Similar Problem:

- 1) Great Crowd
- 2) Desolate Place
- 3) Food Needed

ii. Similar Solution: Jesus Provides

- In a manner similar to the story here in Mark 8, Jesus ultimately provides for the masses in a miraculous fashion. In the end, the crowd is given more than enough food.

Obviously, when reading Mark 8:1-10, we will recall the events of Mark 6. Yet that is ultimately not the only even that we should remember when reading this story.

B. Distant Past: THE Feeding in THE Wilderness (Exodus 16:4-31, Numbers 11, etc)

i. Similar Problem:

- 1) Great Crowd (Israelites after escaping out of Egypt)
- 2) Desolate Place (The Wilderness)
- 3) Food Needed (“Take us back to Egypt”)

ii. Similar Solution: Moses provides through God.

Point: For those with any Jewish background, the events of Mark 8 would have sounded very familiar. Original observers would have, perhaps, been struck with the thought “I feel like I’ve seen this before.”

- At first glance, it would seem that Jesus is being presented as a second Moses...something that clearly the people picked up on...Mark 8:27-28

- This type of comparison makes sense in light of other passages in which Jesus mimics the words and actions of famous Old Testament figures (Think Sermon on the Mount, the prophets, etc...)

Transition: Because of those similarities, it is only natural that one’s memories are reawakened – in the way that our memory can be sparked by a few notes/lyrics of a song we haven’t heard in years...

- As we continue to unpack this narrative, however, we understand that something much greater is taking place than the display of another Moses...

II. Eyes Opened (differences...key) (Numbers 11:10-15)

A. Compassion is Amplified

- i. Moses (Numbers 11:10-15, 20:10-11)
 - a. Compassion in Spurts
 - b. Frustration in Spurts
 - Frustrated by the people, overwhelmed by the task at hand (and not the only time)
- ii. Jesus (Mark 6, Mark 8, etc)
 - a. Compassion for All Ailments/Struggles
 - 1) Mark 6:34; Compassion over spiritual condition
 - 2) Mark 8:1-10; Compassion over physical hunger
 - 3) Mark 1:40-42: Compassion over Leper's condition
 - b. Compassion for All Peoples (Jew & Gentile)

Point/Summary: Read through the accounts of Moses and you will see these key differences emerge. When compared with the compassion of Christ, then, you quickly see you are dealing with a sense of compassion that goes beyond a mere leader... **THIS IS THE COMPASSION OF THE CREATOR**

- Psalm 145:15-16, I Kings 19, Genesis 1-2, etc

Transition: Still, that is not the only key difference put on display here...

B. Power is Amplified

- i. Moses (Numbers 11:10-15, 21)
 - * "I cannot do this, God."
 - Regardless of how great of a leader...Moses was just a man and he knew that.
- ii. Jesus (Mark 8)
 - a. His Power is Proactive (He goes out of his way to perform this miracle)
 - b. His Power is Unmatched (this is no struggle)
 - Again, this is nothing new. He has already fed 5,000 before just as he has calmed storms, healed the blind, etc...

Point: Again, this is not just the power of a great leader... **THIS IS THE POWER OF THE CREATOR.**

Summary: While there is a familiarity of some details, this is something altogether different. This is not simply Moses, Part 2. This is God incarnate.

- Hebrews 3:5-6 (one is a servant, the other is a Master)

Transition: As great as these miracles are, however, they are not the end of the story – for Jesus here is only whetting his audience's appetite. Their memories of previous miraculous provision, a long lost intimacy with God, long awaited Messiah, etc...everything is gradually being revealed not so they are content in the present, but so they shift their focus to that longing for ultimate restoration...

III. Hope Renewed (8:6-10) (John 8:48-51)

- A. Temporary Provision (already)
 - i. Basic Provision
 - ii. Echo of Previous Provision

Anytime Jesus uses something like bread in a miracle, he is using a temporary provision as a picture of the greater/eternal provision that he ultimately offers.

- B. Eternal Provision (Not-Yet) (Mark 14:22-23)
 - Jesus IS the bread...
 - In the account of the Last Supper we see Jesus using similar language (both blessing and giving thanks for the elements of the meal). In that Last Supper we see the next step forward in the message that is ultimately being proclaimed in these miraculous feedings.

Conclusion: So that when you come to Mark 14:22-23 and hear these words...you think “I feel like I’ve heard this one before.”

IV. Conclusion/Application

- A. Unbeliever: See these events, watch them...
 - i. Be Awakened to your Need
 - ii. Repent of Your Sins
 - iii. Believe

- B. Believers: See these familiar reminders, let your memory be reawakened, your awareness of Christ amplified, and your anticipation of the future reignite...
 - i. Remember the Meaning
 - ii. Return to Christ
 - iii. Use this time of communion...